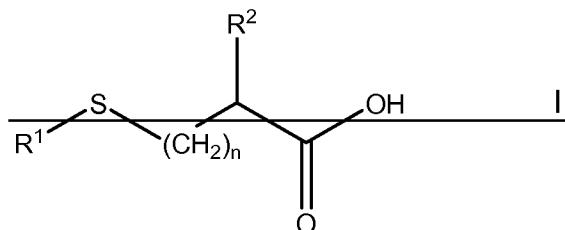


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-74 (canceled).

Claim 75 (presently amended). A method of inhibiting or killing microbes comprising *Salmonella* in food ~~or water~~, the method comprising treating the food ~~or water~~ with an organic acid composition comprising at least three organic acids, the organic acid composition comprising 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid and at least two organic acids selected chosen from the group consisting of formic acid, butyric acid, fumaric acid, lactic acid, benzoic acid, and propionic acid, wherein the organic acid composition inhibits or kills more *Salmonella* in the food compared to when the food is treated with any single organic acid that forms the organic acid composition, and a compound of formula (I) having the following structure:



wherein R⁴ is an alkyl group having from one to four carbon atoms;
n is an integer from 0 to 2;
R² is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, -OCOR³, or -NHCOR³; and
R³ is an organic acid derivative;
or a salt thereof;
and an acceptable diluent, adjuvant or excipient.

Claim 76 (canceled).

Claim 77 (previously presented). The method of claim 75 wherein said food is selected from the group consisting of human food, livestock food, pet food, or aquaculture food.

Claim 78 (previously presented). The method of claim 77 wherein said composition is mixed with the food as it is formulated.

Claim 79 (previously presented). The method of claim 78 wherein said composition is applied to a pre-mixed or pre-pelleted feed.

Claim 80 (previously presented). The method of claim 79 wherein said composition, subsequent to treating said food, is uniformly dispersed throughout said food.

Claim 81 (previously presented). The method of claim 75 wherein said food comprises a meat or bone meal.

Claim 82 (previously presented). The method of claim 75 wherein said food is dry food.

Claim 83 (previously presented). The method of claim 75 wherein said food is liquid food.

Claim 84 (previously presented). The method of claim 75 wherein said food is a combination of dry feed and liquid food.

Claim 85 (previously presented). The method of claim 75 wherein said food is fed to an animal.

Claim 86 (previously presented). The method of claim 85 wherein said animal is a ruminant animal.

Claim 87 (previously presented). The method of claim 86 wherein said ruminant animal is selected from the group consisting of dairy cows, lactating dairy cows, dairy calves, beef cattle, sheep, and goats.

Claim 88 (previously presented). The method of claim 85 wherein said animal is an aquaculture.

Claim 89 (previously presented). The method of claim 88 wherein said aquaculture is fish or crustaceans.

Claim 90 (previously presented). The method of claim 85 wherein said animal is livestock.

Claim 91 (previously presented). The method of claim 90 wherein said livestock is swine or horses.

Claim 92 (previously presented). The method of claim 85 wherein said animal is poultry.

Claim 93 (previously presented). The method of claim 92 wherein said poultry is selected from the group consisting of chickens, turkeys, and hatchlings thereof.

Claim 94 (previously presented). The method of claim 85 wherein said animal is a companion animal.

Claim 95 (previously presented). The method of claim 94 wherein said companion animal is a dog or a cat.

Claims 96 to 113 (canceled).

Claim 114 (currently amended). The method of claim 75-113, further comprising an acidulant selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphorous acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, and nitric acid.

Claim 115 (currently amended). The method of claim 75-113, wherein the composition has a pH of less than about 5.

Claim 116 (currently amended). The method of claim 75-113, wherein the composition has a pH of about 4 to about 5.

Claim 117 (currently amended). The method of claim 75-113, wherein the composition has a pH of about 4.5.

Claims 118 to 120 (canceled).

Claim 121 (currently amended). The method of claim 75, wherein the organic acid composition comprises compound of Formula I is 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, and the organic acids consist of butyric acid, and lactic acid.

Claim 122 (previously presented). The method of claim 121, wherein the content of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid is from about 20% to about 40% of the sum of the 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, butyric acid, and lactic acid content; the content of the butyric acid is from about 10% to about 30% of said sum; and the content of the lactic acid is from about 10% to about 30% of said sum.

Claim 123 (previously presented). The method of claim 122, further comprising phosphoric acid, wherein the content of the phosphoric acid is from about 20% to about 40% of said sum.

Claim 124 (currently amended). The method of claim 135 75, wherein the organic acid composition comprises compound of Formula I is 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, and the organic acids consist of butyric acid, formic acid, and lactic acid.

Claim 125 (previously presented). The method of claim 124, wherein the content of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid is from about 10% to about 30% of the sum of the 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, butyric acid, formic acid, and lactic acid content; the content of the butyric acid is from about 2% to about 22% of said sum; the content of the formic acid is from about 20% to about 40% of said sum; and the content of the lactic acid is from about 8% to about 28% of said sum.

Claim 126 (previously presented). The method of claim 125, further comprising phosphoric acid, wherein the content of the phosphoric acid is from about 10% to about 30% of said sum.

Claim 127 (currently amended). The method of claim 75, wherein the organic acid composition comprises compound of Formula I is 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, and the organic acids consist of butyric acid, lactic acid, and propionic acid.

Claim 128 (previously presented). The method of claim 127, wherein the content of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid is from about 10% to about 30% of the sum of the 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, butyric acid, lactic acid, and propionic acid content; the content of the butyric acid is from about 2% to about 22% of said sum; the content of the lactic acid is from about 8% to about 28% of said sum; and the content of the propionic acid is from about 20% to about 40% of said sum.

Claim 129 (previously presented). The method of claim 128, further comprising phosphoric acid, wherein the content of the phosphoric acid is from about 10% to about 30% of said sum.

Claim 130 (currently amended). The method of claim 135 75, wherein the organic acid composition comprises compound of Formula I is 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid; and the organic acids consist of butyric acid, formic acid, and propionic acid.

Claim 131 (previously presented). The method of claim 130, wherein the content of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid is from about 1% to about 20% of the sum of the 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, butyric acid, formic acid, and propionic acid content; the content of the butyric acid is from about 1% to about 15% of said sum; the content of the formic acid is from about 65% to about 85% of said sum; and the content of the propionic acid is from about 1% to about 15% of said sum.

Claim 132 (previously presented). The method of claim 131, further comprising phosphoric acid, wherein the content of the phosphoric acid is from about 1% to about 15% of said sum.

Claim 133 (canceled).

Claim 134 (new). The method of claim 75, wherein the organic acid composition further comprises at least one organic acid chosen from formic acid, fumaric acid, and benzoic acid acetic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, mandelic acid, citric acid, sorbic acid, boric acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, glycolic acid, and glutaric acid.

Claim 135 (new). The method of claim 75, wherein the organic acid composition further comprises at least one organic acid chosen from formic acid, fumaric acid, and benzoic acid.

Claim 136 (new). The method of claim 134, further comprising an acidulant selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphorous acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, and nitric acid.

Claim 137 (new). The method of claim 135, further comprising an acidulant selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphorous acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, and nitric acid.